



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

**MAYOR URGES RESIDENTS TO TELL COUNCIL
TO PASS BUDGET
COUNCIL SHOULD REJECT RITTER-KENNEDY-DEUTSCH
16-MIL TAX INCREASE**

---NEWS RELEASE---

(May 29, 2009)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez urges residents and taxpayers to call the Hartford City Council (757-9560) today and tell them to pass a city budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Failure to pass the budget by Sunday at midnight will result in an automatic mil rate increase of approximately sixteen mils. The proposed budget awaiting a vote by the Council would increase the mil rate by a much smaller 5.44 mils.

If the Council fails to pass a budget by May 31st, the City Charter automatically reinstates all the positions and expenses in previous year's budget and then adds wage increases and all other contractual increases. To pay for the increases and revenue reductions, the Council would need to increase the mil rate by approximately 16 mils--- **the largest increase in city history**.

The City Council recessed on Thursday night without taking any action on the budget. Councilmen Ritter, Kennedy and Deutsch publicly stated that they would not support adoption of the budget even though the council has been working on it for six weeks, and they had voted for a number of provisions in the budget.

"No one can recall a time when the Hartford City Council has failed to do its duty and adopt a City budget. In this time of economic uncertainty, it is an abdication of responsibility for the City Council not to pass a budget. Though the Council is paralyzed by politics, it is time for at least five members to step forward and act responsibly. Our residents and taxpayers need the Council to do their job. Our residents should call the council and let them know they need to act," Mayor Perez stated.

"It is unfortunate that Councilmen Ritter, Kennedy and Deutsch are leading the charge to block passage of the budget and force the implementation of a 16 mil increase in property taxes. This is something our residents and business can't afford and it's the wrong kind of leadership for our city," Sarah Barr, Director of Communications stated.